

WORKSHOP SESSION of the Burrillville Town Council held Monday, May 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, 105 Harrisville Main Street, Harrisville for and within the Town of Burrillville.

PRESENT: Council President Nancy F. Binns, Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Margaret L. Dudley, Kevin D. Heitke, John M. Karmozyn Jr. and Norman C. Mainville

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert A. Bishop

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION: Aaron Coutu, Daniel P. Joubert, Sr., Michael Keable, David C. Ketcham, Valerie Leduc, David Marcotte, Kevin Menard, Leo Plouffe and Barbara Schouboe

Relative to meeting in workshop session with the Burrillville Charter Review Commission for the purpose of reviewing and discussing the Commission's recommendations

David Ketcham referred to the Charter Review Commission's transmittal letter, which was used as an outline for the discussion. A copy of the letter is on file with the record of the meeting.

Kevin Menard and Leo Plouffe arrived at 7:03 P.M.

1. Voter Recall of an Elected Official

Dr. Ketcham explained that the Commission recommended adding a provision to recall elected officials and reviewed the suggested procedure.

Michael Keable arrived at 7:08 P.M.

There was discussion that item (d) Time of Filing Petition should be amended to read: "...after the clerk's issuance of the first blank petition".

It was suggested that Submission to Voters should be changed to allow for certification of questions to the Secretary of State. The recommendation was to change the time frame to 60 to 90 days.

There was discussion of whether a recall provision would be beneficial. The commissioners commented on providing recourse for public.

Dr. Ketcham review proposed minor changes to §3.04 and §11.04 Forfeiture of Office that would be necessary if a recall provision were to be enacted.

2. Compensation for Elected Officials

The Commission proposed Charter amendments that would 1) eliminate paid benefits to elected officials and would 2) establish by Charter the monetary compensation for both council members and

school committee members. Dr. Ketcham explained the thinking behind the proposal.

There was discussion of whether changes in benefits and compensation would be better established by ordinance than by Charter. There was discussion of the function of a Charter and of ordinances.

Valerie Leduc arrived at 7:34 P.M.

3. Town Council Powers and Duties

The Commission explained proposed changes that would allow the Town Council to explore intergovernmental services and to reassign duties within departments.

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, voiced concern that this proposal might conflict with parts of Charter that specifically assign tasks to departments and personnel.

4. Town Council Powers and Duties

Due to the expense of the School Department, the Commission suggested that the Town Council should be required to ratify all collective bargaining agreements.

There was discussion of adjusting the language so that it was clear that the Town Council 1) must review contracts and 2) must ratify or

reject them. It was suggested that the Solicitor modify the proposed language.

There was discussion of the provision and whether this would eliminate the need for School Committees (and other commissions) or serve as a system of checks and balances.

5. Advertising of proposed ordinance

The Commission recommended amendments in the notice provisions for proposed ordinances to better circulate information at a lower cost.

6. Personnel Board

The Commission recommended an amendment that would allow for assignment of some or all of the powers and duties of the Personnel Board to a Personnel Department. It was suggested that a Personnel Department, if established, could serve both the school and town.

7. School Committee

Dr. Ketcham reviewed several proposals about selection of school committee, as discussed by the Commission. The Commission recommended that four (4) School Committee members be elected at large and three (3) be appointed by the Town Council.

There was discussion of various ways of selecting School Committees, the merit of various methods, and process for recalling

appointed School Committee members

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, suggested that appointment in December might be too soon in the process since the appointing authority would not take office until December.

8. Discrimination

The Commission proposed that discrimination because of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity should be prohibited by Charter.

9. Board / Commission appointments

The Commission recommended that all regular and alternate members of Boards and Commissions be qualified electors of the Town of Burrillville.

Conclusion

Council President Nancy F. Binns acknowledged the time and effort of the Charter Review Commission and thanked the Commissioners on behalf of the Town Council. The Commission recognized the capable assistance by their Administrative Aid, Cheryl Commendatore. Council President Nancy F. Binns commented that the Town Council would decide what to send to the Solicitor and then the Solicitor would prepare questions before a public hearing would be scheduled. The Commission offered to assist with the educational process.

VOTED to adjourn at 8:37 P.M.

Motion by Councilor Norman C. Mainville. Seconded by Councilor Wallace F. Lees. The vote was unanimous by the six members present. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Margaret L. Dudley, Kevin D. Heitke, John M. Karmozyn Jr. and Norman C. Mainville. Councilor Robert A. Bishop was absent.

The workshop was recorded.

Louise R. Phaneuf, Town Clerk